



DARTMOUTH

Bristol County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Dartmouth is unusual in exemplifying from its earliest history the tension between the established Calvinist Puritan religion and those who wished to worship in their own way.

In 1652, Massasoit, Chief Sachem of the Wampanoag Federation, sold the land covering Dartmouth and 4 other present towns, to elders of the Plymouth Colony, including Miles Standish, John Alden, and Governor William Bradford. These early real estate speculators then sold the land off in smaller parcels, primarily to religious dissidents, Quakers and Baptists, who were seeking refuge on what was then the frontier from the religious persecutions being launched both by the Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Bay Colonies. The town, named after an English port, was incorporated in 1664 but refused consistently to pay the "minister's tax" which was levied on all communities to support Puritan clergy.

The community grew quickly, attracting many who disagreed with the establishment and many more who sought work in agriculture, saltmaking or fishing, including a significant number of Portuguese immigrants. Dartmouth has remained through most of its history a rural agricultural community but began adopting a summer residential and resort character in the 19th century as wealthy and near-wealthy city dwellers from New Bedford built and purchased vacation homes. Although Dartmouth is now primarily a suburban bedroom community, the town came into the 20th century with significant portions of its historic character intact; there is still farming in Dartmouth, still a strong vacation component and still a wide diversity in religious beliefs. The construction of Southern Massachusetts University in the 1960's accelerated the town's growth in residential development.

Areas of Dartmouth are rich in colonial, Federal and Greek revival architecture and some rural areas are left, although under pressure from housing development. Residents are proud of the fact that in Dartmouth the past and present co-exist: the past in its farms, churches, villages and scenic rural roads and the present in Route 6 commercial development, the North Dartmouth Mall and emerging industrial policies.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information

provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Westport on the west, Fall River on the north, and New Bedford and Buzzards Bay on the east and south. From the intersection of Route #6 and #177 in the Westport Mills section, Dartmouth is 6 miles west of New Bedford, 6 miles south of Fall River, 53 miles south of Boston, and about 202 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 63.95 sq. miles

Land Area: 61.53 sq. miles

Population: 27,244

Density: 443 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(New Bedford Station)

Normal temperature in January.....30.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....73.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.3"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Fall River East, New Bedford South, Westport, New Bedford North

Regional Planning Agency

Southeastern Regional Planning and
Economic Development District

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

New Bedford



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 999-0700

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Executive Administrator

Representative Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1664

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	14,374		
Democrats	6,807	47.4	%
Republicans	1,650	11.5	%
Other parties	1	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	5,916	41.2	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Dartmouth town, Bristol County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	30,666	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	30,666	100.0
Male.....	15,155	49.4	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	461	1.5
Female.....	15,511	50.6	Mexican.....	47	0.2
Under 5 years.....	1,370	4.5	Puerto Rican.....	213	0.7
5 to 9 years.....	1,695	5.5	Cuban.....	9	-
10 to 14 years.....	2,001	6.5	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	192	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	2,853	9.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	30,205	98.5
20 to 24 years.....	2,661	8.7	White alone.....	27,629	90.1
25 to 34 years.....	3,296	10.7	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	4,613	15.0	Total population.....	30,666	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	4,540	14.8	In households.....	27,457	89.5
55 to 59 years.....	1,659	5.4	Householder.....	10,555	34.4
60 to 64 years.....	1,215	4.0	Spouse.....	6,466	21.1
65 to 74 years.....	2,300	7.5	Child.....	8,457	27.6
75 to 84 years.....	1,862	6.1	Own child under 18 years.....	5,762	18.8
85 years and over.....	601	2.0	Other relatives.....	1,149	3.7
Median age (years).....	38.2	(X)	Under 18 years.....	399	1.3
18 years and over.....	24,404	79.6	Nonrelatives.....	830	2.7
Male.....	11,955	39.0	Unmarried partner.....	391	1.3
Female.....	12,449	40.6	In group quarters.....	3,209	10.5
21 years and over.....	21,900	71.4	Institutionalized population.....	993	3.2
62 years and over.....	5,460	17.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	2,216	7.2
65 years and over.....	4,763	15.5	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,923	6.3	Total households.....	10,555	100.0
Female.....	2,840	9.3	Family households (families).....	7,817	74.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	3,365	31.9
One race.....	30,164	98.4	Married-couple family.....	6,466	61.3
White.....	27,896	90.8	With own children under 18 years.....	2,720	25.8
Black or African American.....	325	1.1	Female householder, no husband present.....	1,012	9.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	60	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	493	4.7
Asian.....	363	1.2	Nonfamily households.....	2,738	25.9
Asian Indian.....	106	0.3	Householder living alone.....	2,349	22.3
Chinese.....	122	0.4	Householder 65 years and over.....	1,323	12.5
Filipino.....	33	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	3,650	34.6
Japanese.....	19	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	3,374	32.0
Korean.....	26	0.1	Average household size.....	2.60	(X)
Vietnamese.....	25	0.1	Average family size.....	3.06	(X)
Other Asian ¹	33	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	10	-	Total housing units.....	11,283	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	2	-	Occupied housing units.....	10,555	93.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	5	-	Vacant housing units.....	728	6.5
Samoan.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	2	-	occasional use.....	444	3.9
Some other race.....	1,570	5.1	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	502	1.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.0	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	10,555	100.0
White.....	28,234	92.1	Owner-occupied housing units.....	8,519	80.7
Black or African American.....	466	1.5	Renter-occupied housing units.....	2,036	19.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	131	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.75	(X)
Asian.....	438	1.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.96	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	51	0.2			
Some other race.....	1,877	6.1			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 124

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 50

Federal (Section 8): 200



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Dartmouth which is situated in the New Bedford-Fall River Area is served by the airport and port facilities of New Bedford. The airports, ports, and intermodal facilities of Providence and Boston are accessible via Interstate 195 and State Routes 24 and 140.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 6 and Interstate Route 195.

Rail

The Bay Colony Railroad and Conrail provide freight rail service in Dartmouth and interchange traffic there. Contact number for the Bay Colony: (617) 380-3556; contact number for Conrail: (617) 783-6222

Bus

Dartmouth is not affiliated with any regional transit authority and has no fixed route bus service.

Other

Fall River Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, has 2 asphalt runways 1,600' and 3,950' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. New Bedford Municipal Airport is a Primary Commercial Service (PR) facility with scheduled passenger flights. It has 2 asphalt runways 4,997' and 5,000' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Children's Museum in Dartmouth
276 Gulf Road
(617) 993-3361

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)

[The UMass Dartmouth Theatre Company](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Brandon Woods Ltcf

Harborview Manor Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

Country Rest Home

Dartmouth Manor Rest Home

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

WELFARE ASSISTANCE

(Department of Public Welfare 1994)

	Cases
Cash Assistance	
Refugee Assistance	0
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Aged	205
Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)	215
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) - Disabled	341
Emergency Aid (formerly General Relief)	51
Medicaid Only	
Aged	106
Families	132
Disabled	93
Children	3
Food Stamps Only	144
Total	1,290

DPW caseloads are compiled by zip code. The cases shown are for the zip code(s) in which the community is located, and may include cases for other communities with the same code.

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.